



Volume 25

An ARCEC Monthly Publication

March 2016

Counterpoise Editor - Sue Robins AF6LJ

March Meeting Highlights

By Sue Robins AF6LJ

We had two presentations at our March meeting. The first presentation was by one of our Youth members Daniel KK6ZEM. Daniel's presentation was about his journey to amateur radio, and the trials and tribulations he overcame to earn his Technician Class license. Daniel's Father Jon KK6VLO expressed pride in his son when giving an introduction to Daniel's talk. It was a good presentation and a reminder of the struggles we all had in our youth, maybe not amateur radio related but nonetheless for me brought back memories of those goals I strived for and earned. Today's young amateur radio operators will be tomorrow's leadership in our community, you go Daniel.



Our second presentation was by Dave Ward, club president KD6DW on the use and application of the club's MFJ Antenna Analyzer. For the amateur who is interested in building and experimenting with antennas this device is as useful as a jack is to someone changing a spare tire. An antenna analyzer does more than finding the resonant frequency of your antenna, and VSWR of your antenna / transmission line system. Antenna analyzers are capable of doing many tasks that can shed light on your antenna, and transmissions line.

*Finding cable faults is a time saving function these wonderful devices are capable of doing.

*Finding the electrical length of a piece of coaxial cable, also finding the velocity factor; sense the two are related.

*Testing the amount of loss in a given piece of coaxial cable.

Antenna analyzers are a very basic form of a family of tools called Network Analyzers.



An antenna analyzer such as the MFJ family of antenna analyzers are a very simplified version of an indispensable tool in RF engineering called a Scaler Network Analyzer. Thanks to modern electronics much simplified versions of these rather expensive pieces of gear have been made available to hobbyists. As an outgrowth of this a while crop of antenna analyzers have hit the market at surprisingly low prices. MFJ makes several models of antenna analyzer all the way from our MFJ-259 to MFJ-226 with a graphical display. These instruments are very affordable and quite powerful. To see the full range of MFJ antenna analyzers head over to;

<http://www.mfjenterprises.com/Categories.php?sub=0&ref=7>



Above the Club's antenna analyzer. Below is the MFJ high end analyzer with graphical display.



Next Month's Meeting

Bob Boehme, W2IRI will share his collection of low cost amateur radio test equipment, much of which he has built. There is a whole subsection of low cost test equipment in both kit and assembled form that are useful to the amateur radio operator, and homebrew electronics enthusiast. Hope to see you at our April meeting.

Editor's Notes

With Spring comes antenna season I have bee getting an early start with the installation of a rotor on my receiving loop and some other upgrades, look for a short presentation at an upcoming meeting in the near future.

Our club repeater has become one of the most active repeaters in the county of late. Between the evening nets and the morning roundtable discussions there is quite a bit of activity. If you are not one of the lurkers, or one of the regular participants, got a 2 meter radio, come and join in...

If you have something you would like to see in Counterpoise, anything of interest to our members. Your homebrew projects, articles pertaining to local activities or your thoughts on amateur radio current events, send that content to counterpoise@wa6bgs.us You are what makes the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon, we wouldn't exist without you the membership. Join us at our meetings and activities and become a part of the club.

ARCEC Repeater Frequencies

2 Meter Repeater	220 MHZ Repeater	440 MHZ Repeater
TX 146.475	TX 222.480	TX 440.900
RX 147.420	RX 224.080	RX 445.900
Offset .945	Offset 1.6	Offset 5.00
PL 107.2	PL 107.2	PL 107.2

Fry's Operating Day

April 30th San Diego Six Shooters and Fry's Electronics will be holding another Operating Day Event. Time to bring out your portable, mobile and GO Kits and meet the public. Operating Day is a wonderful chance to expose the public to our hobby and some of what we do to be prepared for disaster, or to show off our portable gear we use for DX.

Fry's Electronics is located at 9825 Stonecrest Blvd, San Diego, CA 92123 (off Aero Dr.) Setup begins at 7 AM, Public Operations begin by 9 AM - Until 4 PM, or thereabouts.

See You There.

Swap Meet Listings

The Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon has a Swap Meet listing page on our website and here in Counterpoise, Have something you want to buy, sell, or trade list it with us. See <http://wa6bgs.us/swapmeetlegal.html> for more listings and posting guidelines. This is a free service to our members.

This Month's New Listing

Joe:W6VMX - I have a dual band Yaesu FT-7900R (2m & 440) mobile radio for sale. In great cosmetic and operating condition. It comes with original box, microphone, all mounting parts, power cable, and operator's manual. Also has the YSK 7800 separation kit and I am including the programming cable and software from RT Systems. Priced at \$200.00 FIRM. Contact Joe Bennett at: w6vmx@rocketmail.com to make purchase arrangements.



Club Membership & Dues

Club dues and new memberships can now be paid online. The Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon website wa6bgs.us has been updated to accept membership dues, and new members. The link is at the top of the page, just follow the instructions on the Join / Renew page. Our website is a work in progress and there will be more good things to follow in the months ahead, so visit often.

A New Resource

Recently Mark KB6PJU and Terry K6TRY had some tree trimming done by one of the local tree trimming services. As often happens the question regarding all that wire and stuff in the air came up. It was explained they are amateur radio operators. Another question came up in their conversation, that being can their bucket truck be used for hanging wire antennas and the like? Well it turns out this company will for a reasonable cost lend the services of their bucket truck for the purpose of minor antenna work. Mark and Terry thought it would be good to pass this information along. And there you have it another very useful service made available to us amateur radio operators. There is a cost involved, however I am told it is reasonable.



Membership Badges & Pins

All members of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon who might wish to obtain a membership badge can contact Dell Awards and place an order with them. They are our current preferred source for these badges, and have our logo and design on file and ready to create a custom badge for members. Current price is \$7.50 per badge and they have indicated that there is normally a 3 business day turnaround time. These are quality badges made by a long established company, so place yours on order soon. They can be reached at the below address and phone number, and be sure to mention you saw this blurb in the Counterpoise newsletter too.

Dell Awards
7949 Broadway
Lemon Grove, CA 91945
(619) 469-2100
Hours: Mon-Fri 9:30am-5:30pm
Sat 10am-1pm
Sun - Closed

Club Pins Now Available:

They have arrived! A limited number of club pins are now here and can be obtained from our Treasurer at most club functions. These are 1" diameter pins with a rubber clutch pin on rear. You can now show the world your support of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon, and for the small cost of \$3.00 each too. Get them while they are available.



The San Diego Morse Code Practice Group

Mark KB6PJU has been conducting a code practice group on the WA6BGS VHF repeater. The code practice Group meets at 7:00 PM Pacific time on Tuesdays, and Fridays. If you want to learn Mores Code, hone your skills, and improve your speed the San Diego Morse Code Practice Group is for you.

You can discuss the San Diego Morse Code Practice Group here;
<http://www.arrl.org/forum/topics/view/1536>

And here;
<https://forums.qrz.com/index.php?threads/new-2-meter-repeater-cw-teaching-method-developed.492738/>

Our Tower Trailer Needs A New Home

The current storage location for the club's antenna tower will not available very soon. The club is looking for a volunteer willing to store the tower trailer. The new location must be secure, and 24 hour access is highly desired. If anyone wants to volunteer to store the trailer, or, has any suggestions on where to store the antenna trailer, please contact any officer or board member.





The AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OF EL CAJON^{Inc.}

WA6BGS

Post Office Box Fifty, El Cajon California 92022

Founded 1960 ~ Incorporated 1976

Please fill out this form and then see options at bottom for submitting to the club

Date of application: ____ / ____ / ____

Amount Paid: \$ _____ Cash _____ Check _____ Check # _____

Membership Type: Individual (\$20/year) Family* (\$35/year)

Membership Status: New Renewal Returning Member

Call Sign _____ First Name _____ Last Name _____

If a previous member, what was your WAMO number?

ARRL Member: Yes No

License Class: Technician General Extra Other

Email Address (required) _____

Phone Number (optional) _____

**Use another sheet of paper to add Family members and please include the following information:*

First Name, Last Name, Call Sign (if any), License Class, Wamo Number (if any), & Email Address.

Submitting this form:

To submit this form, you can mail it to:

**Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon
P.O. Box 50
El Cajon, CA 92022**

-OR-

Bring it to the next club meeting on the second Thursday of each month. You can find the date and location by getting online at www.wa6bgs.us which is the club website. Check it out for the most current information regarding the club.

Cash Payments - Get a receipt from the Club Treasurer. Please make all checks payable to AMATEUR RADIO CLUB of EL CAJON, Incorporated. Receipts for payments by check will be sent by email or regular mail by the Club Treasurer.

Members with an FCC Call Sign are full members with voting privileges. Members without an FCC Call Sign are Associate members without voting privileges.

YOUR DUES ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE: Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon, Inc. Is a 501 C 7 Corporation. Donations are NOT tax deductible.

Email address and phone number are to allow club officers to contact members regarding club business and information of interest.

INTERNATIONAL STYLE ON-FOOT T-HUNT

Saturday May 21st. 2016

Lake Murray Community Park, 7051 Murray Park Dr. San Diego, 92119

Sponsored by the San Diego T-Hunt Group & CQ Magazine World Wide Fox Hunting Weekend

Starting times will be 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at 5 minute intervals. If you start at 2:00 you will have until 3:30 to complete the course. **NO REGISTRATION FEES!** There will be 5 hidden T's using the MOE-MOI-MOS-MOH-MO5 format. You will be issued a "Punch card" and there will be orange & white flagging tape at each punch located close to the T's which will be concealed. Antennas will all be vertically polarized with approximately the same radiated power from each "T". For information on "International Style Transmitter Hunting" you may go to Joe Moell, k0ov's excellent website..... www.homingin.com/intlfox.html We will have limited equipment for loan for those that do not have small 2-M beams. Bring a connector to go from your HT antenna connector to a BNC cable. There will be experienced Hams present to demonstrate techniques for those that want to learn about "On-Foot" Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ADRF) and a "Practice T" to experiment with before you start the course. You do not need a Ham Radio License to participate! You will be issued a map of the area with major features delineated. A compass, clipboard and pencil may be handy to plot bearings with. Dress appropriately as it may be hot or cold. Plan on taking water with you while hunting. There are several restrooms/porta-potties in the area for your use.

A BBQ is planned for about 3:00 PM for those interested. We will have burgers & hot dogs, buns, condiments, potato salad, drinks, chips & salsa. BBQ donations can be made on site. For information contact :

Joe Corones, N6SZO @ H-858.484.3582, C-858.603.5545, jcorones@gmail.com OR... ...
Joe Loughlin, KE6PHB @ H-619.461.7845, C-619.403.3149, ke6phb@cox.net

Directions: From Interstate-8 take College Ave. north about a mile to Navajo Rd. and turn right. Follow Navajo for about 1 1/4 mile and turn right on Park Ridge Blvd. Follow Park Ridge about 3/4 mile until you come to Murray Park Dr. and turn left. The park will be about 1/4 mile on your right. Look for signs/banner for T-Hunting towards the back of the park by the Tot-Lot. Coordinates are 32-47'-30.78" N & 117-02'-43.96" W.

COME OUT AND EXPERIENCE A DIFFERENT ASPECT OF HAM RADIO

